



**Time & Intentions
for Sundays and
Weekdays Masses**



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 28 th Dec.	9 am	Feast Holy Family	Ron Parker (LD)	Holy Family
Sun 28 th Dec.	11.15 am	Feast Holy Family	Dee Kelly Parishioners	Our Lady V
Mon 29 th Dec.		St Thomas Becket		The church is closed
Tue 30 th Dec.	12 noon	Octave of Nativity		Our Lady V
Wed 31 st Dec.	12 noon	Octave of Nativity		Our Lady V
Thu 1 st Dec.	9 am	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		Holy Family
Thu 1 st Dec.	11.15 am	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		Our Lady V
Fri 2 nd Dec.	12 noon	Ss Basil & Gregory		Our Lady V
Sat 3 rd Dec.	12 noon	Weekday of Christmas		Our Lady V
Sun 4 th Dec.	9 am	Second Sunday after Nativity	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 4 th Dec.	11.15 am	Second Sunday after Nativity		Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Tue 9.30am to 10am; Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments. Wednesday Club: / Tuesday Nursery: You are welcome!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly:

Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, John Evans-Freeke, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Natalie Kavanagh, Sue Swift, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall, Mark Fieldsend.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: Maureen Carney, Thomas Davin, Kevin Baron.



The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell

Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

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Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

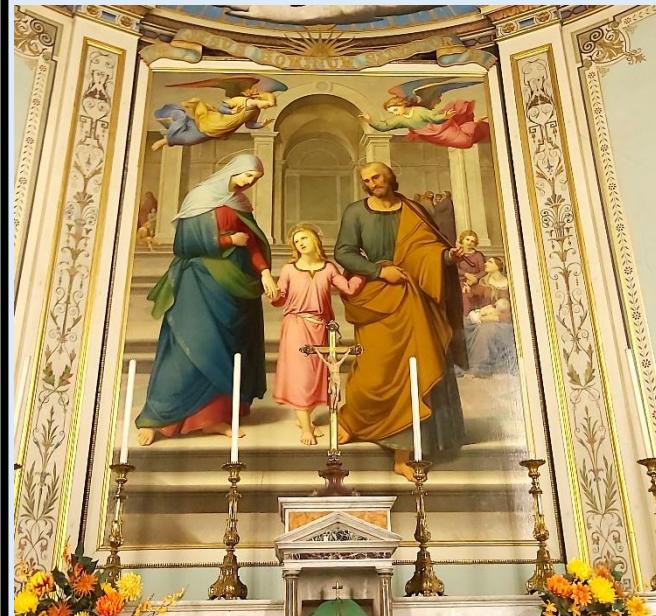
Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094



Feast of the Holy Family (A): 28th December 2025



1) We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: By celebrating the Sunday following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.

Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings us holiness by embracing us in His family.

2) Marriage: a Sacrament of holiness. Through the Sacrament of priesthood, Jesus sanctifies the priest as well as his parish. Similarly, by the Sacrament of marriage, Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through personal and family prayer, reading of the Bible, and participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus becomes truly present in the parish Church through the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit. This happens when there is understanding, mutual support and mutual respect, proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents, even after they have grown up and left home.

3) We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom: A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their behaviour, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a Heavenly one." Thus, we can avoid the dangers we watch in dysfunctional families as presented on TV in the shows like Married with Children, The Simpson's, Everyone Loves Raymond and Malcolm in the Middle.

4) Let us extend the boundaries of our family: The homeless man or woman today in the streets of big cities, fighting the cold and the snow, is part of our family. The drug addict in a den, or living in fear and aloneness this day, is member of our family. The sick person, dying, alone, dirty and maybe even obnoxious, is a member of our family. The person sitting in the prison cell for whatever reason is also a child of God, and as such, according to St. John, is a member of our family. All these, as well as the cherished intimate members of our family, are "family valuables," and, as such, are worthy of safekeeping and reverence.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church. May God bless all our families in the New Year.

Father Sergio, Parish Priest



Happy New Year! Fr Sergio would like to thank you for the many cards, gifts and generous Christmas Offerings, and to take this opportunity of wishing you and all your families a peaceful, happy and prosperous New Year.

Pope at Ubi et Orbi: Peace is a shared responsibility. Thursday, December 25th, 2025 @1:30 pm

As war continues to scar the world, Pope Leo XIV used his Christmas Ubi et Orbi message to renew his appeal for peace, dialogue, and responsibility, turning to those regions where violence and instability continue to claim innocent lives.

Prayers for peace: The Pope prayed for "justice, peace, and stability for Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, and Syria," and urged that the promise of peace rooted in righteousness be renewed. He appealed in a particular way for Ukraine, asking that "the clamour of weapons cease," and that all those involved, with the support of the international community, find the courage to engage in "sincere, direct, and respectful dialogue." Remembering conflicts that risk being forgotten, Pope Leo XIV expressed closeness to the victims of war and violence in Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as to all those who suffer as a result of injustice, political instability, religious persecution, and terrorism. The Pope also prayed for Haiti, calling for an end to violence and progress along the path of peace and reconciliation. He also invoked peace for Myanmar, asking that the country be guided towards reconciliation and hope, especially for its younger generations. Turning to Latin America, he encouraged those with political responsibilities to give space to dialogue for the common good, rather than to ideological and partisan divisions. The Pope also prayed for the restoration of the "ancient friendship" between Thailand and Cambodia and entrusted to God the peoples of South Asia and Oceania, who have been severely affected by recent natural disasters, calling for renewed commitment to assisting those who suffer.

The true meaning of Christmas: Against this backdrop of conflict, Pope Leo XIV recalled the meaning of Christmas, proclaiming that "today, true peace has come down to us from heaven." Quoting Saint Leo the Great, he affirmed that "the Lord's birth is the birth of peace." Reflecting on the Nativity, the Pope recalled that Jesus "was born in a stable because there was no room for Him in the inn," and that the Son of God, "through whom all things were created," was not welcomed. "Out of love," the Pope said, Christ "accepted poverty and rejection, identifying Himself with those who are discarded and excluded."

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CYCLE A

First reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother. O son, help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The word of the Lord

Second reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 128(127):

R: Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be blessed and prosper. **R:/**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive around your table. **R:/**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the husband who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Sion. May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life! **R:/**

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.